

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8845

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2147

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. 9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER LEE'S VISIT TO JAKARTA

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED WITH MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY TAN BOON SENG UPCOMING PRIME MINISTER LEE VISIT TO JAKARTA. IF SIZE AND RANK ARE INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE OF VISIT, THEN SINGAPORE IS INDEED GIVING IT HIGH PRIORITY. OFFICIAL PARTY WILL BE 18 AND IN ADDITION TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL INCLUDE MFA MINISTER OF STATE RAHIM BIN ISHAK, DEPUTY SECRETARY TAN, MINDEF INTELLIGENCE CHIEF S. R. NATHAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SINGAPORE AND SINGAPORE PORT AUTHORITY HOWE YOON CHONG, FINANCE MINISTRY PERMSEC NGIAM TONG DOW AND OTHERS. NEWS STORY TODAY FROM JAKARTA STATES NTUC SECRETARY GENERAL DEVAN NAIR AND FORMER HOME MINISTER WONG LIN KEN WILL ALSO BE ALONG.

2. TAN ALLEGES THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT HAS PUT FORTH DETAILED AGENDA FOR DISCUSSIONS, BUT IT
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IS EXPECTED THAT VARIETY OF SUBJECTS SUCH AS MALACCA STRAITS, NEUTRALIZATION, ETC., WILL ARISE. ACCORDING TO TAN ONLY TWO FORMAL SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED: (A) MEETING OF FONMINS FOR SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON TERRITORIAL DELINEATION OF STRAITS OF SINGAPORE AND (B) PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN LEE AND SUHARTO.

3. WHILE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF TRIP IS BRINGING TOGETHER OF TWO LEADERS, PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND PM LEE, THUS HOPEFULLY INDICATING A NEW MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT GOS OFFICIALS OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GOS IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS MOST ANYTHING INDONESIANS WANT TO RAISE. IN RESPONSE QUESTION WHETHER TRADE AND SMUGGLING ARE ON THE AGENDA, TAN REPLIED THAT FACT THAT NGIAM TONG DOW IS INCLUDED IN OFFICIAL PARTY IS EVIDENCE OF GOS WILLINGNESS TO LOOK AT SUBJECT IF IT IS RAISED.

ONE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE ALLEGES THAT THERE HAS BEEN COMPLICATED TRADE OFF OF ACCEPTANCE LEE VISIT FOR SINGAPORE STRAITS DELINEATION AGREEMENT, AND THESE ARE RELATED TO GOI AGREEMENT MAKE INDONESIAN ISLAND AVAILABLE FOR SADC BOMBING PRACTICE RANGE, WHICH IS IN TURN RELATED TO GOS AGREEMENT PUBLISH TRADE STATISTICS. AT THIS POINT, SPECULATION ON WHAT VISIT MIGHT BRING DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE EXERCISE.
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